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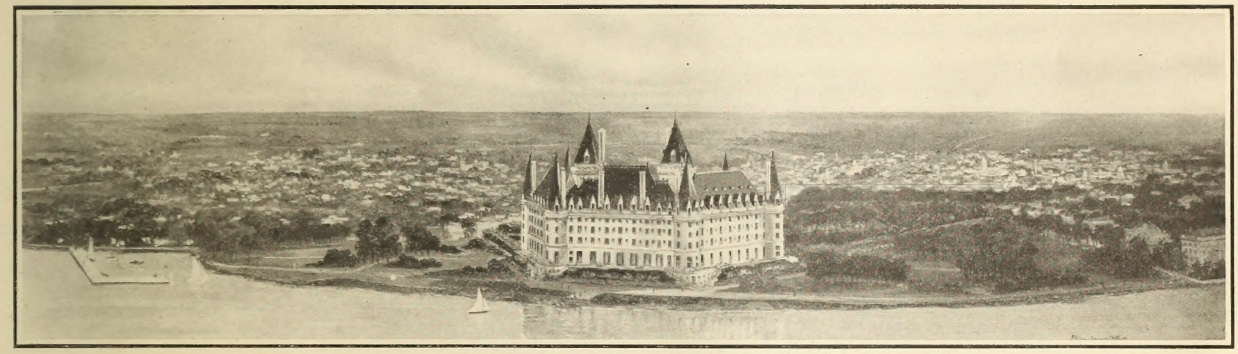
Queen's University at Kingston

The Chateau Rideau

KINGSTON ONTARIO CANADA

HILGER, GRAVES & COMPANY
D. R. DUPUIS
C. T. HENDERSON



VIEW OF THE CHATEAU RIDEAU FROM THE ST. LAWRENCE RIVER.

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The Chateau Rideau—What it means to Kingston

KINGSTON! What a wealth of history and romance is wrapped in that name. Back in the centuries gone are the valorous Count Frontenac, the brilliant, daring Robert Cavalier de La Salle, causing to rise out of the wilderness a new outpost of New France. And long after them, long after Fort Frontenac has fallen before British guns and been left an ash-heap, come other sturdy men, men of the Anglo-Saxon tongue, driven from their homes because loyal to flag, founding a new home by the blue waters of the St. Lawrence—Kingston.

Just as the name Kingston unfolds a wonderful panorama of historic scenes and valiant conduct, so does the name Kingston bring to mind a marvelously beautiful picture of scenic grandeur—a thousand islands, green and sweet-smelling with their verdure, dotting the broad blue river which flows down to the sea.

Situated on the shore, immediately at the foot of Lake Ontario and the head of the St. Lawrence and directly opposite the most attractive of the islands in this famous group, Kingston every year should be the natural objective point for the many men and women and children who seek and find rest, recreation, health and refreshing scenes of beauty in the Thousand Islands. Kingston has all the qualifications—save one, of which this booklet will speak in detail—to make this city the real center of life in the Thousand Islands. A night's ride by rail brings the visitor from New York, Boston, Pittsburg, Cleveland, Buffalo, Detroit, Toledo and Chicago, while only a few hours more span the journey from St. Louis, Philadelphia, Washington, Baltimore, Cincinnati and Louisville. Modern lines of lake and river steamers annually bring thousands of travelers to Canadian and New York points near the Islands. But not to Kingston. Neither do the thousands who come to the Islands by rail make Kingston their vantage point. Why? Everyone in Kingston knows why. Because Kingston cannot entertain them as they want to be entertained. Because Kingston does not provide the comforts and conveniences they ask. In short, because Kingston as yet has no hotel to appeal to these travelers. Thus it comes about that Kingston is "side-tracked" in Thousand Islands travel.

You've watched the crowded steamers put in at Kingston and then put out again. You've seen the steamers' passengers, good people, desirable visitors, people demanding modern comfort and

having money to buy it, go on to Frontenac, to Alexandria Bay, to little Gananoque, because in those places they may in a degree be provided the physical comforts to which they are accustomed, and still enjoy the wonders and beauty which Nature has here spread on her canvas.

Yet in measure far beyond Frontenac, Alexandria Bay and Gananoque, or any other point on the St. Lawrence, Kingston has natural beauties, natural advantages and attractions which, if proper hotel accommodations were provided, would make this city one of the most popular, high-class summer resorts on the American continent, and famous the world over.

Kingston's natural attractions are many. The city's romantic history has been mentioned, but other phases of life here would make even stronger appeal to the alert, intelligent, serious yet pleasure-loving men and women of this twentieth century. Kingston's picturesque setting, invigorating air, fine citizenship, the Queen's University, beautiful churches, old forts, the Royal Military College, good roads, charming country drives, natural golf links equaled only in Scotland, opportunities for water sports, splendid boating and canoeing and rare good fishing and hunting up the beautiful River Rideau—these attractions, added to the city's commanding view of the Islands and its proximity to their shadow-splashed passages, would bring thousands of desirable visitors to Kingston every year if Kingston had such a hotel as such visitors demand.

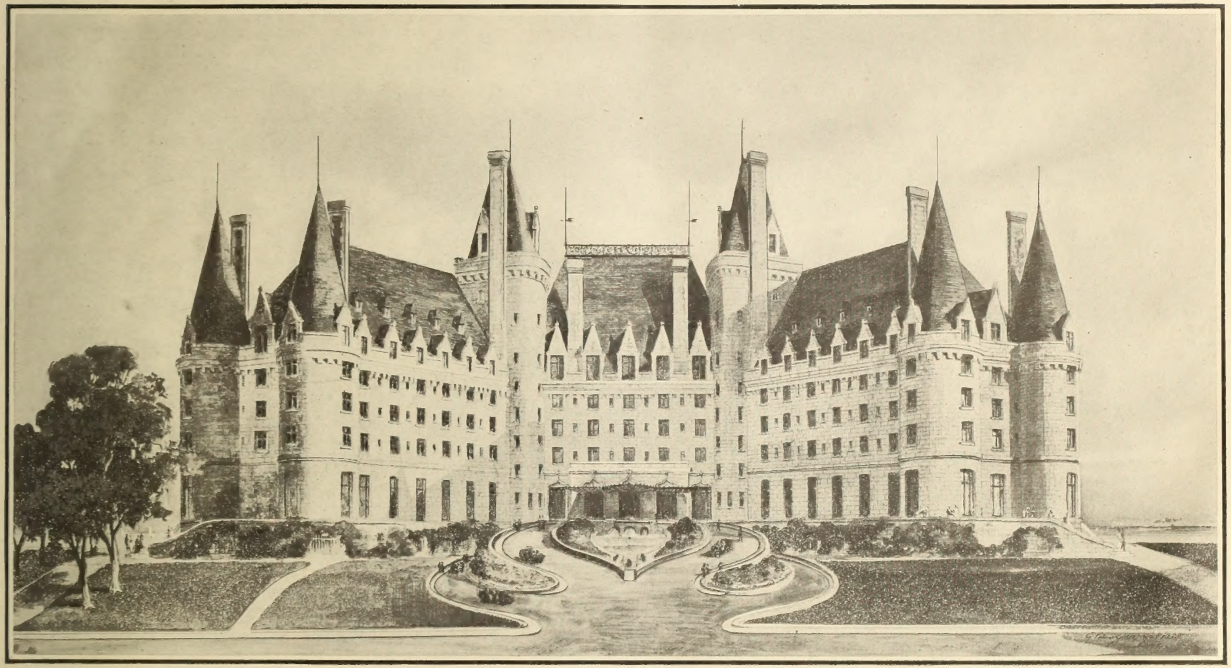
The Kingston Hotel Company proposes to build such a hotel, the Chateau Rideau, in Macdonald Park.

It can be said, to the credit of Kingston, that many citizens have long realized Kingston's need of a modern, first-class hotel. Recently this need was officially recognized by the action of the Board of Trade in appointing a special committee to consider the question and by the action of the mayor in recommending that the Council give it serious attention. So now, with the whole city recognizing this one great need and giving it thought, there can be little doubt Kingston soon will attain by right her proper place among the cities of the St. Lawrence.

The recent marvelous progress of Canada in all lines has been distinguished by the recognition which other cities have given to similar needs. Quebec has its Chateau Frontenac. Montreal has the beautiful and commodious Place Viger, and is enlarging and rebuilding the Windsor. In Ottawa the Chateau Laurier is rising. Toronto has built the King Edward. Winnipeg has the Royal Alexandria. Vancouver and Victoria are as well advanced. And even little Regina has the beautiful King's Hotel. Kingston alone remains in the background.

The Chateau Rideau will bring Kingston out of the background into the very foreground of Canadian activities. With this transition will come immeasurable benefits to the city and to every man, woman and child residing in the city. Labor, merchandising, real estate and manufacturing alike will feel the enlivened conditions and profit thereby. Socially, the life of the city will be brightened.

First, let us speak of the material benefits which Kingston will derive from the Chateau Rideau. Before proceeding, one



REAR VIEW OF THE CHATEAU RIDEAU.

point should be emphasized, viz., the Chateau Rideau will be a hotel appealing to the very best class of guests.

Kingston labor, of all grades, will reap benefits from the day excavation is begun for the erection of the Chateau Rideau. The work of construction alone, requiring probably a year's time, will mean the paying of a vast amount of wages to Kingston labor, skilled and unskilled. Materials used in the construction will mean the paying out of an equally large or larger amount of wages to other labor in Kingston or nearby mills, factories, foundries, workshops and quarries.

Then, not merely for one year but for generations, as long as the Chateau Rideau shall stand, Kingston labor will continue to reap its reward from the erection of this hotel. Engineers, firemen, painters, decorators, chefs, cooks, truck gardeners, liverymen, laundrymen, tailors, boatmen, clerks, and every other man and woman who works in Kingston will receive their share of the actual, material benefits which the Chateau Rideau bestows on the city of Kingston. With increased activities and progress the natural trend of wages will be upward.

Kingston merchants will share profitably in the benefits as soon as Kingston labor. But the most marked benefits will be felt after the Chateau Rideau has opened its doors to guests. Hotel guests spend their money liberally *outside* the hotel. Much money from other cities will be left in the tills of Kingston shops. Notably, it may be suggested that Kingston will become a famous retail center for furs and fine linens, woolens, rugs and other articles of English manufacture.

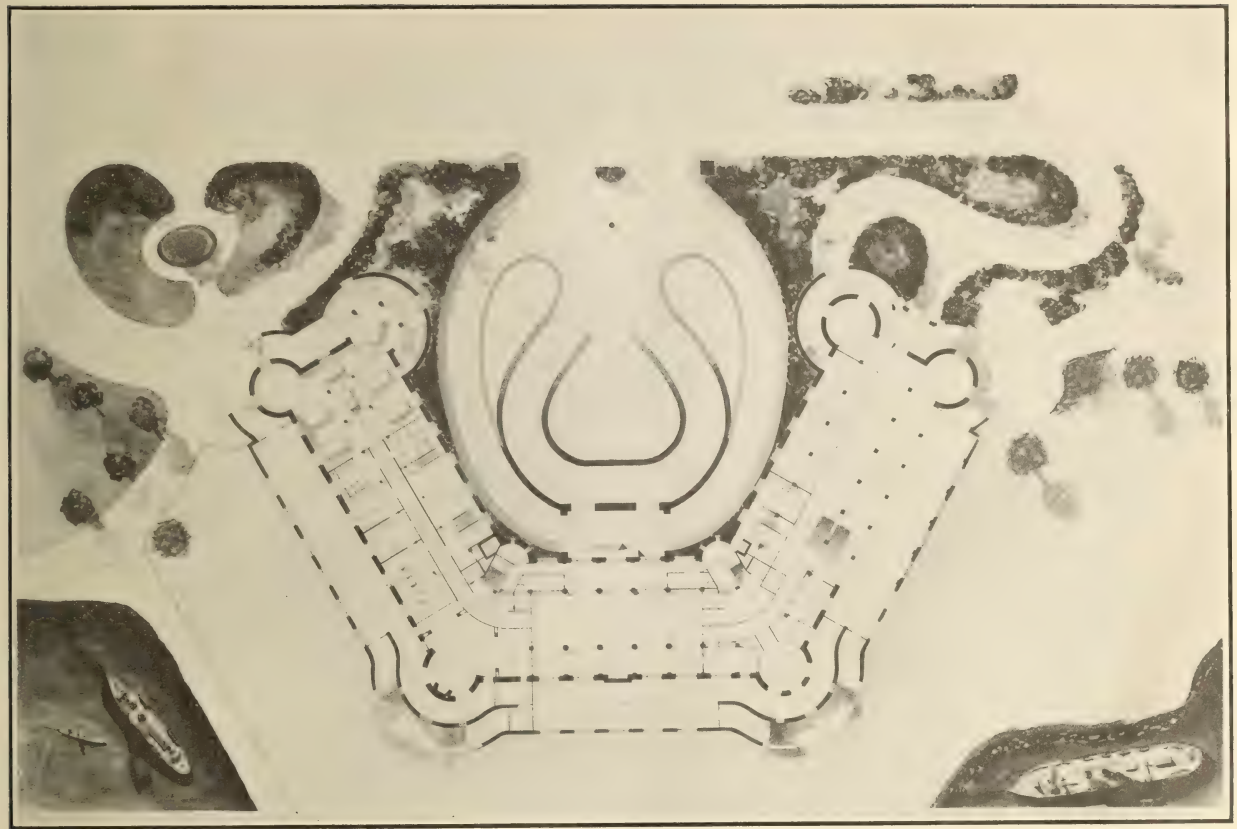
Real estate likewise, though perhaps less radically, will share in the advantages marking the advent of the Chateau Rideau. The erection of this magnificent hotel will surely be accompanied by a rise in real estate values, particularly in the immediate neighborhood. Furthermore, it seems an assured fact that many guests of the Chateau Rideau, becoming attached to their surroundings in Kingston, will subsequently buy property for summer homes either in the city or on the Islands, thus leading to increased real estate activity.

Manufacturing may experience less noticeable benefits, but such benefits are certain. For when merchandising and labor profit, manufacturing profits also.

The street railways will also profit by the increased number of visitors in Kingston.

The social life of Kingston will be pleasantly enlivened by the establishment of the Chateau Rideau. It is a well-known fact that the Governor-General and other persons of importance rarely visit Kingston because of the lack of suitable accommodations. The magnificent regal suite designed for the Chateau Rideau will make an ideal residence for the Governor-General whenever he may visit Kingston. This suite likewise will be a special attraction for the many foreign dignitaries and men of wealth who pass through the Islands every year en route to Toronto, Montreal, Niagara and Quebec.

Music by the best bands of the world daily on the grounds of the Chateau will make Macdonald Park, in its greatly beautified



PLAN OF GROUND FLOOR AND GROUNDS OF CHATEAU RIDEAU,
Showing Kitchen in Right Wing, Cafe in the Center, Billiard Room, Etc., in Left Wing.

state of surpassing attractiveness to every resident of Kingston. The erection of the Chateau will take nothing away from the Park, and will add untold interest thereto.

The great ballroom and beautiful banquet hall of the Chateau Rideau will provide a pleasing, and heretofore impossible, setting for many social events in winter.

We might recite at great length the multitude of ways in which Kingston will benefit by the Chateau.

With the establishment of this hotel, Kingston, as an important church center, can provide handsomely for the entertainment of the clergy and other religious bodies which will gather here from time to time.

The opening of the Chateau will enable Kingston to entertain many important, and profitable, conventions which in the past have gone elsewhere because of Kingston's lack of hotel accommodations. Many specific instances of the loss which Kingston has suffered in this connection might be cited. Only last summer one convention, attended by four hundred prosperous automobilists, declined Kingston's invitation to meet here, solely because of the lack of hotel facilities. The convention went to a nearby city, and it is estimated the four hundred delegates spent an average of $50 each in the three days during which the convention met. This is $20,000 which would have been spent in Kingston if the Chateau Rideau had been here.

The architects of the Chateau have made special provision for the commercial travelers who visit Kingston. Attractive bedrooms with baths and sample rooms have been planned for these guests, who, in addition to these accommodations, will enjoy all the modern service and equipments of the other parts of the Chateau. Commercial travelers, with such a hotel in Kingston, will be glad to revise their present custom of stopping in Kingston only "between trains."

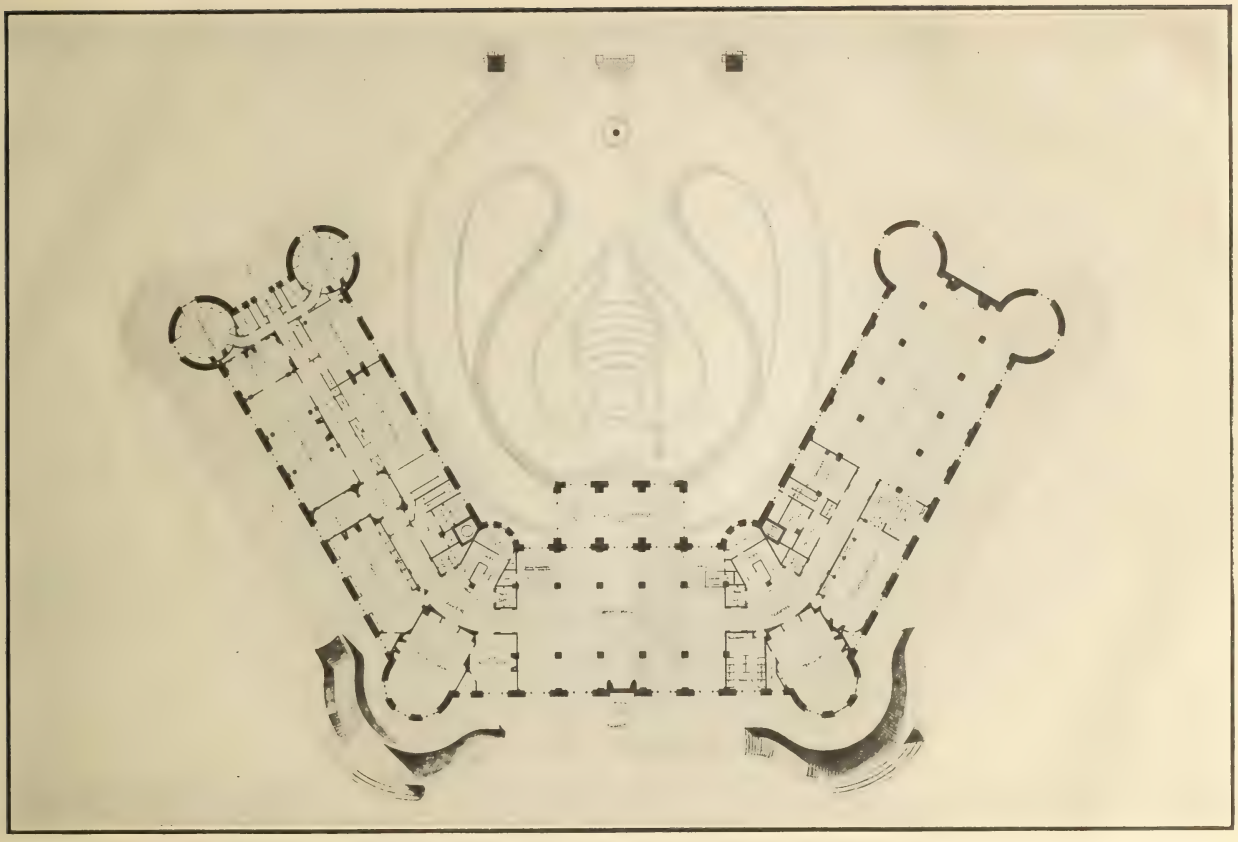
The Chateau Rideau, of itself, will be a perpetual advertisement working for the good of the city of Kingston. In addition to this the hotel company will undertake to advertise the Chateau and the beauties of Kingston in a dignified, effective manner, through the North American Continent.

Kingston's already excellent railway facilities will be bettered in proportion as the importance of the city increases following the establishment of the Chateau Rideau.

With the Chateau here, it would seem winter sports may become an attractive feature in the life of Kingston. It is certain Kingston will become one of the American centers of yachting, canoeing and motor-boating as well as automobiling, fishing, hunting and golf.

With utmost conservatism it may be said the Chateau Rideau will be the most perfectly appointed hotel and the most beautiful structure in Canada, equal in every way to the St. Regis of New York, recognized as the finest hotel in the world, and distinctly superior to the King Edward or any other hotel in the Dominion.

Standing on a site in Macdonald Park, on the shore of the St. Lawrence, the Chateau will be a fireproof, 300-room building of most modern construction, having steel or cast-iron columns with



MAIN FLOOR PLAN OF THE CHATEAU RIDEAU,
Showing Regal Suite in Left Wing, Main Dining Room and Children's Dining Room in Right Wing, Lobby in Center.

steel beams and girders, floors of reenforced concrete, walls of Kingston limestone with granite base and roof of red tile, every room with bath.

The style of the Chateau is adapted to the material at hand and is expressive of the place, sentiment and history. It takes one back to the landing of Frontenac at Cataraqui, and so to the chateaux of his native France, though not quite of his time; for the style of the Louis XIV period is too grandiose and formal for the site. Therefore, all points being considered, the architects have chosen the general character of the earlier French chateaux, known as the Francois Premier. They intend to treat the interior throughout in this style, varying the colors of the woods, decorations and hangings in the several rooms as their uses suggest.

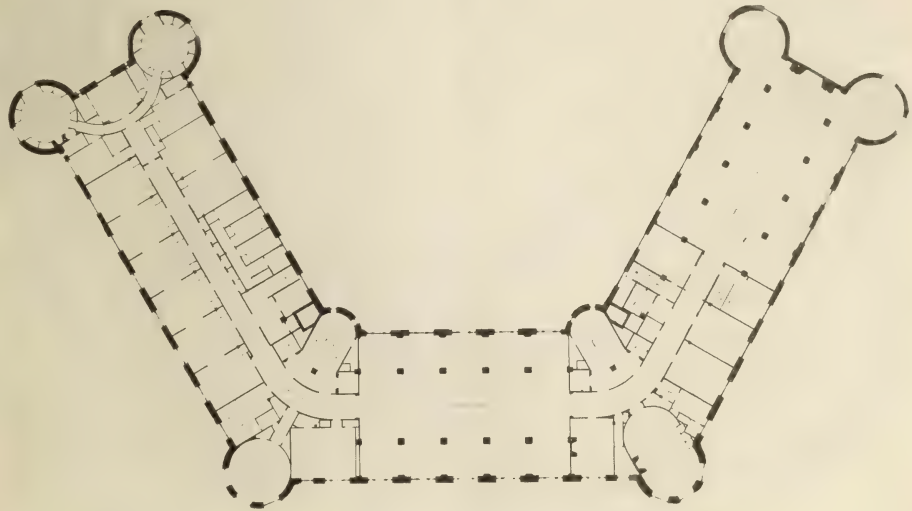
Mr. G. Palmer Graves, the architect, of the firm of Hilger, Graves & Company, in speaking of the Chateau Rideau, says: "Wherever possible native and local Canadian labor and material will be used, so that the greater part of the money spent will stay in Kingston and Canada. Only such parts as cannot be as well or as economically done in Canada will come from England, France or the United States.

"The disposition of the various entertainment rooms has been decided upon after careful consideration of the kind of visitors who are likely to stop at the Chateau. First, there are the more or less permanent guests who rent rooms or suites of rooms and who desire to live as in their own homes, or as in other well-appointed hotels. For their entertainment practically the whole of the center and south pavilions are devoted. Therein are situated the grand dining room with terrace. Families occupying suites will have their own private dining rooms, in which they may be served by electric elevators direct from the kitchens.

"In the north wing is the state suite, or regal suite, where the Governor-General or the Prince of Wales, or any other great dignitary or person of note may be entertained. This suite may be rented by persons of wealth desiring to live in state with their retinue, or for large house parties.

"There is a very large class of tourists who will be constantly arriving in automobiles, yachts, the many steamers going through the Islands, and by train en route to other points. These tourists, even if they do not make their headquarters at the Chateau, will need entertainment at all hours and in a more or less informal way—in distinction to the formal first-floor dining room. For them the ground-floor cafe and restaurant, with its terrace for outdoor service, will serve at all hours anything they want. Beyond this are the barber shop, lavatories, toilets, and the billiard room. Thus the men will be well provided for.

"The automobilist who arrives at the Chateau Rideau steps from his car at the level of the cafe, if he so desires. Entering a large glass-enclosed vestibule, he can check his wraps. Ladies can check their wraps at the other end of the vestibule. Then they can go to their dressing rooms, lavatories and toilets, respectively situated on each end of the vestibule. Leaving their dressing rooms they can enter the cafe from either end, or they can order one of the private dining rooms for parties, to which they ascend by elevators, and be served there. If they choose to use



MEZZANINE FLOOR, CHATEAU RIDEAU,
Showing Drummers' Rooms in Left Wing, Small Banquet Hall and Private Dining Rooms in Right Wing.

the main dining room, where more formality prevails, the same elevators will carry them there.

"Yachtsmen coming up from the water front find easy access to all the service of the ground floor, or they can be served on the terrace. Wide flights of easy steps lead to the main or first floor, but it is presumed persons not registered in the hotel will find the ground floor and its informal rooms more to their taste. The provisions there made for their entertainment are of the finest and most complete character.

"In the basement, or underground floor, are the large Russian, Turkish and plunge baths.

"In the grounds of the Chateau will be a commodious, fireproof garage, with accommodations for fifty automobiles."

Mr. Graves, who, assisted by Mr. Louis H. Vadé, designed the Chateau Rideau, is recognized among hotel men as one of the world's most advanced architects of hotels. Notable among the hotels which he has designed are the Ansonia Apartment Hotel of New York; the La Salle and the Blackstone of Chicago (now being erected); Fairmont Hotel, San Francisco; the Cuba Hotel, Havana, Cuba; the St. Regis of New York. The handsome University Club of Chicago, the Elizabethan room and large banquet hall of the Auditorium Annex, Chicago, and the new Cook County Court House, Chicago, are also his work.

In the Chateau Rideau, with its special requirements always in mind, the architect has applied all his knowledge of hotel construction, a knowledge gained through personal experience in hotel construction and through long study of hotel conditions in European and American centers. The result is a masterpiece of artistic and practical hotel architecture.

To sum up briefly, let us bear in mind these several facts:

Kingston is an ideal location for a strictly high-class, modern hotel.

Kingston needs such a hotel.

The Kingston Hotel Company proposes to build such a hotel—the Chateau Rideau.

The Chateau Rideau will bring material benefits to the city of Kingston and to every man, woman and child in the city and to every class of business and labor in Kingston.

Most people in Kingston will agree that Kingston not only needs but **wants** the Chateau Rideau. What do **you** think about it?

INTERIOR OF MAIN DINING ROOM, CHATEAU RIDEAU.

:: Details descriptive of the Chateau Rideau ::

Structure—The Chateau Rideau will be built in the most improved modern construction of steel and reinforced concrete, with limestone facing. All floors will be reinforced concrete. Wood will be used only where necessary for ornamentation, thus making the hotel as fireproof as possible.

Garage—The garage will be built underground where the old tower now stands. It will be equipped in the most modern way and will accommodate fifty large touring cars at one time.

Kitchen—Special attention has been paid to the equipment of the kitchen. The proportions are such that large parties can be served at any time without interfering with the service of the hotel proper. The kitchen will be in white tile and modeled after the style of the kitchen in the St. Regis Hotel in New York, which is known as the finest equipped kitchen in the world.

Lobby, Dining Rooms, Etc.—The lobby, dining rooms, billiard room, cafes, etc., will be in the style of Louis XII and Francois I, the entire hotel being designed in the same style, known generally as the French Chateau style. The lobby and dining rooms go in height through two floors and measure from floor to ceiling twenty-five feet. The principal dining room is 56x95 feet and the lobby 56x86 feet.

Decorations, hangings, furniture and carpets are all designed and will be specially made to harmonize with the above-mentioned styles. They will be elaborate but dignified.

From the dining room, cafes or billiard room guests can step to a wide terrace, where, if desired, they can be served with meals or refreshments.

Ball Room—The ball room will be on the fifth floor and will accommodate from five hundred to seven hundred guests. In height it will go through three stories, 34 feet in all, with a width of 50 feet and length of 88 feet.

The ball room is connected with the banquet hall and will be decorated in the same period as the dining room and lobby.

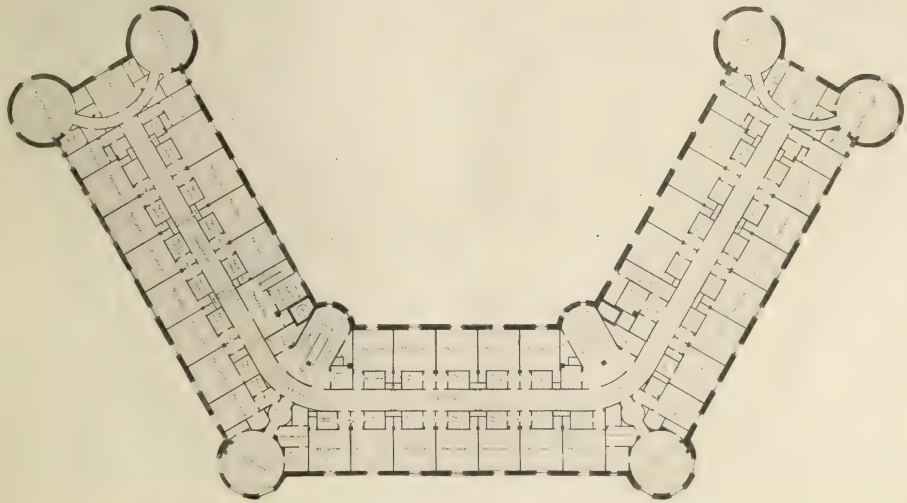
Bedrooms and Bathrooms—All bedrooms are of very liberal size, carpeted throughout, walls decorated on canvas, furnishings partly in solid mahogany and partly in summer furniture. On chilly days, if heat is desired, a thermostat which is in every room brings the temperature to any degree desired without touching the radiators. There are sufficient state rooms provided so that any number of bedrooms with a parlor can be furnished.

The bathrooms are in white imported English tile with solid porcelain bath tubs and washbowls and open nickel plumbing. A number of bathrooms are equipped with shower baths.

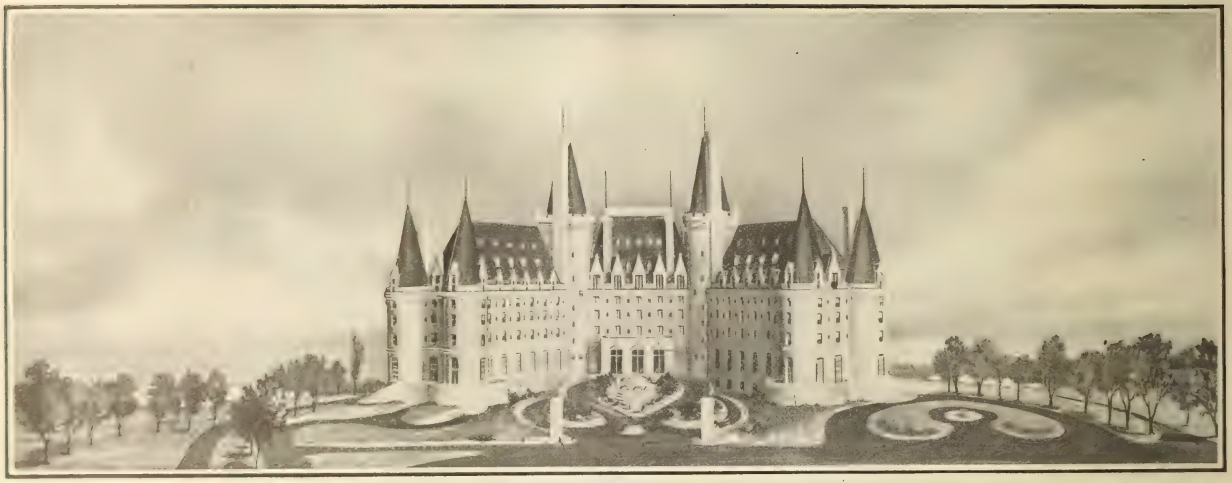
Regal Suite—This is to be on the first floor and will contain, besides state bedrooms, a salon de reception, salon d'honneur, dining room and parlor. The suite will be elaborately decorated and here any nobility or royalty of Europe can be entertained handsomely. This suite covers a space 109x56 feet.

Basement—The basement, or ground floor, is especially arranged for the accommodation of tourists coming either in motor cars or by boat, who wish to stay for only a few hours. A large informal cafe is provided here for such guests and also private dining rooms for parties who desire to dine alone. Large dressing rooms for ladies and also for gentlemen are provided in connection with shower baths, plunge, Russian and Turkish baths. The various cafes in the basement have easy access to the lower terrace, where meals can be served if desired. The cafes in the basement cover a space of 68x86 feet.

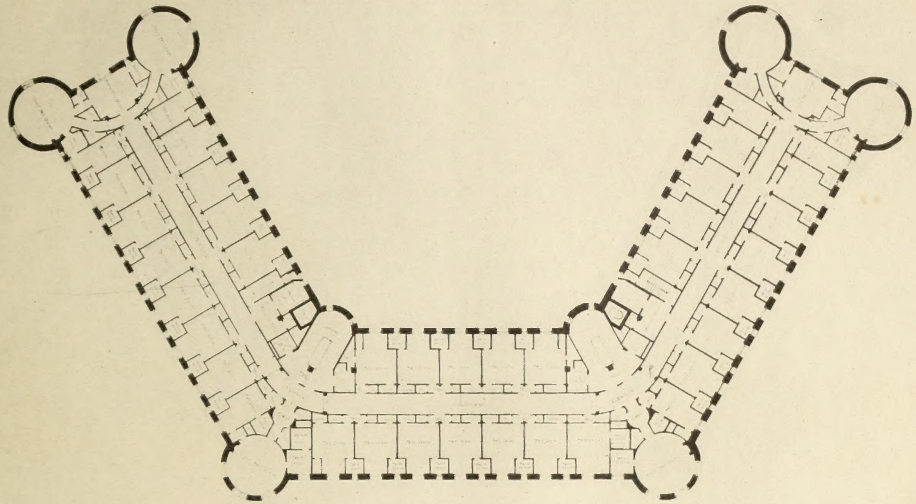
The billiard room is located in the basement. It has six billiard tables and one special match table, with a large number of amphitheater seats.



TYPICAL BEDROOM FLOOR PLAN, INSIDE BATHROOMS, CHATEAU RIDEAU.



PHOTOGRAPH OF PLASTER MODEL OF THE CHATEAU RIDEAU.



TYPICAL BEDROOM FLOOR PLAN, OUTSIDE BATHROOMS, CHATEAU RIDEAU.

The CHATEAU RIDEAU
Kingston Ontario Canada